

24th Year—No. 51.

NEW CHANGES ON STEVENSON

FAILURE TO COOPERATE ALLEGED BY STROH FOR TRIAL BOARD HEARING

With the filing yesterday of three asserted instances of "non-cooperation" on the part of Captain A. D. Stevenson of the fire department, Director of Public Safety John Stroh served notice to the Civil Service Commission that he would like to dispense with the services of the former fire chief whose place he took last June.

Rotary Speaker

While no date has been set for Stevenson's appearance before the Civil Service trial board, Chairman J. O. Bishop said today that the hearing may be held tomorrow evening. The time depends on Stevenson and his attorney, John Shidler.

Developments this week in the fire department "shake-up" following a firing encounter Oct. 30 between Stevenson and Engineer J. J. Benner were:

Demotion Offer Refused - Stevenson was given an opportunity to accept demotion to the rank of engineer without further peril to his position but, according to Director Stroh, after indicating he would accept this settlement of the case decided to "fight it out" before the trial board.

Immediately after learning of Stevenson's decision, Stroh filed a general charge of "non-cooperation with other members of the department" and himself. This was answered by Attorney Shidler in a denunciation which held the new allegations were "ambiguous" and not specific.

Hence, the filing yesterday of asserted instances of "non-cooperation" by Stevenson, stating that three such instances in a statement to the Civil Service Commission but he declined to reveal what they were, stating undoubtedly they would be aired in detail at the hearing.

Original Counts Stand - Meanwhile, Engineer Benner, who was found guilty of being absent without leave and fighting while on duty who was reinstated after a month's suspension without pay, was fulfilling his regular duties at the central fire station. The same charges were originally filed by Director Stroh against Sapt. Stevenson and will stand on the Civil Service board's records in addition to the new counts placed there this week.

The trial board which will hear Stevenson's case will be the same as the one that pondered Benner's trial - Chairman Bishop, Bernhard Bunje and Robert W. Roberts. The prosecution will be conducted by Attorney Fred Cross, who served as special counsel assisting City Attorney E. M. McCall in the Benner hearing Dec. 7.

Butta Purchases Business Block

Sale of the Vonderahe building at the "five points" intersection of Carson, Cabrillo and Cravens avenues, this week to John Butta, proprietor of the Village Winery and Liquor store, was announced this week by the purchaser. The deal was managed by J. C. Smith of the Torrance Investment company. Butta indicates that he plans for extensive alterations of his new property but was not prepared to make a definite outline at this time.

The brick structure has seven stories, two on Cravens, four on Carson and one at the corner which has been occupied by Butta for the past five years. The building was constructed by Paul and Charles Vonderahe at the height of the city's early real estate and oil activity. Butta purchased the property from a finance company.

Shopping Days at Christmas

Spurlin, Civic Booster, Given Final Tribute

With the sudden death last Thursday afternoon of DeKalb Spurlin, 58, this city lost another of its pioneer settlers who contributed much toward the development of the community. Mr. Spurlin succumbed at Torrance Memorial hospital within a few hours of a heart attack suffered while he was riding toward a Los Angeles meeting with Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the Chamber of Commerce.

The veteran realtor and builder was very active in Chamber of Commerce work, having been president in 1922 and serving as a director for eight years. He came here in 1916 when the city was being laid out. Scores of old friends attended the funeral and many floral offerings from people in other parts of the Southland.

Mr. Spurlin, a member of a family of seven children, was born on a farm near Clayton, Georgia. The family moved to California when he was about 10 years old, settling in Baltimore. Later they went to live in Rosedale in Kern county where Mr. Spurlin's father engaged in extensive bee culture.

As a young man, Mr. Spurlin came to Los Angeles and soon became well-known as a land developer and builder. His first connection with Torrance was the completion of the MWD Palos Verdes reservoir feeder line. Other improvements completed by road crews in the Lomita area have included the placing of larger culverts under 254th street near Walnut to help carry off flood waters which usually inundate the street at that point.

Ray Brooks Is Honored by Ad Managers

At the annual election held by Southern California advertising managers of the California Newspaper Publishers' association last Friday night, Ray Brooks, advertising manager of The Herald, was elected secretary-treasurer. The election took place at the Clark hotel in Los Angeles where the association holds its monthly meetings.

The association to which practically every newspaper in California belongs, is the strongest of its kind in the United States. It unites newspapers in California, both Northern and Southern, and allows of their presenting a united front on questions pertaining to newspapers in this state.

Elected president was James Metcalf of the Alhambra Post-Advocate and Franz Stettman of the Redondo Daily Breeze, was named vice-president.

Sons of Legion End '38 Season

The last meeting of the Torrance Sons of Legion squadron this year was held Monday evening at the Legion hall with Capt. Dean Barkidul presiding and J. Wallace Post and Verne Eisecock, local Legionnaires, as guests. The unit will meet again Jan. 9, 1939 when the Compton squadron will be guests of the Torrance group. Members decided to hold a membership campaign and Gerald Grubb and Wallace Post, Jr. were named as leaders of the two divisions in the contest. A marksmanship tournament will be held with the Harbor City squadron in January. Local boys are practicing rifle shooting every Sunday at the Torrance police range with Al Curier in charge.

Archeologists Approve Diggings

Approval of the proposed excavation of an ancient Indian mound in the Malaga Cove section of Hollywood Riviera by the archeological department of U.S.C., with the assistance of a WPA project, was announced to the city council Tuesday night in a letter from the archeological association.

The diggings are to be under the direction of Dr. A. O. Bowditch, head of the university's archeological department, with him in the role of sponsor. The city will be given all relics and artifacts discovered, the university to use the project as field work for its students. Application has been made by the city for the WPA project.

Three Communities Preparing Children's Christmas Parties

AT TORRANCE

Torrance city firemen announced this week that they have received word from the North Pole that Santa Claus will make a second pre-Christmas visit here on Wednesday night, Dec. 21, when they will stage their annual Yule party for all Torrance youngsters.

In addition to the honored guest, there will be a concert by the Municipal band starting the program in the Civic Auditorium at 7 o'clock. Muriel Zabelle's dancing starts, a major-ket will proceed the distribution of treats to all youngsters present.

AT LOMITA

A free motion picture show at the Lomita theatre and the personal appearance of Santa Claus will be outstanding attractions at the annual children's Christmas party to be held in Lomita Friday afternoon, Dec. 23.

Tickets for admission to the theatre will be distributed thru the schools and the cost of entertainment plus gifts of candy to every youngster is being raised by a "milk bottle campaign." The Lomita Chamber is sponsoring the event. Special movies will be shown, starting at 1:30 in the Lomita theatre.

AT WALTERIA

An all-local talent program by children and adults will feature the annual Walteria community Christmas party to be held at the recreation center Friday night, Dec. 23.

Arrangements for the festivities are being made by members of the Entertainment Guild of the Walteria Improvement association. Presents will be distributed to children around a large Christmas tree. It is expected that about 500 youngsters and adults will participate. Walterians are arranging a program of exceptional entertainment for the Yuletide event.

Planning Commission Formed by Ordinance

Immediately after the final reading of the title to the ordinance establishing a City Planning Commission by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett at the Municipal council session Tuesday night, Mayor William H. Tolson announced the members of the new body.

"This ordinance will not take effect for 30 days," he said, "but I think we ought to appoint the members of the Planning Commission at once so that they can begin thinking about their new duties."

City Councilman Tom McGuire will be chairman of the group. Other members will be City Attorney John E. McCall, Leonard Young, acting city engineer; Scott R. Ludlow, mayor 1933-34; H. J. Deisinger, cashier of the Torrance National bank, first city clerk of Torrance, and city councilman, 1924, mayor in 1929 who also served on the council from Feb. 25, 1937 until Feb. 25, 1938; Charles Curtiss, secretary of the Dominguez Land corporation; John Salton, owner of the Salm Manufacturing (abalone pearl products) company; W. A. Felker, manufacturer of diamond tooth saws; and J. Carruthers, Walteria resident.

One of the chief subjects to come before the Commission will be the long-proposed re-zoning ordinance for the entire city. This matter has been held in abeyance for the past several months pending the formation of the new municipal government. Other matter which may receive the Commission's attention will be the improvement of the Pueblo settlement and the effort to obtain a Federal-City Housing Authority project for the new low-rental homes here.

Other potential Commission subjects are the city park of Torrance boulevard and Cabrillo avenue, acquisition of additional small playgrounds in various parts of the city, the future development of the city park property and new municipal buildings.

Relief Society Issues Call for Yule Donations

The Torrance Relief Society wants everyone who has donations of food or clothing (especially food) for Christmas baskets to send the gifts to 3013 Arlington avenue at once. Also a call is made for yearlings for children from 18 months to 5 years of age.

All organizations are requested to check with the Relief Society about giving baskets, so there will not be duplication in some cases and persons omitted in others. They can call Mrs. Woodington, 690-B.

P. V. Delinquency To Be Cancelled

Steps to cancel a total of \$2,613 delinquent taxes against tax-deeded property in the Palos Verdes Hills that is being acquired for the Palos Verdes elementary school district were being taken today by county officials, at the request of the district trustees.

Taxes and penalties on tax-deeded property may be canceled by order of the board of supervisors when the property is sold to a school district, as was explained by County Counsel J. H. O'Connor.

Additions to nine school sites owned by the school district are being obtained by purchase of tax-deeded property. The parcels were owned by the Palos Verdes Homes association until (Continued on Page 2-A)

OLD ENGLISH YULE MUSIC AT NEW HALL

The Torrance high school music department will present its annual Christmas program in cooperation with the P. T. A., during the formal dedication of the new \$100,700 assembly hall next Thursday night, Dec. 22.

Mrs. Marjorie Eschen Cook, director, announces that the theme of the Yuletide musical program will be "Medieval English in Christmas Celebration." She plans to use the various singing and instrumental student groups in every part of the auditorium which will give the first audience an appreciation of the splendid acoustical engineering that has gone into the building.

The Madrigal Singers, Junior choir, Treble and alto, and the high school orchestra will participate in the gala program depicting in action, costuming, wassailers, beggars, choristers, knights and ladies. King of the festivities will be the Court Fool and he will reign as "Lord of Miracles" until the more serious tones from the cathedral chimes blend the whole presentation into praise of peace on earth.

\$100 Oil Drilling Equipment Stolen

Oil equipment valued at more than \$100 was reported stolen from the Southern California Oil Drilling company's rig at 2328th and Narbonne, Monday, according to police. Three crown bolt shaves and a bronze bearing were listed as missing.

In the same section of the city, meters of electrical conduit and meters from a home was reported by John Koshin of 2328th and Narbonne. He furnished police with description of a suspect.

Housing Act is Held Solution of Local Low-Rental Problem

Federal-County Housing Project Would Relieve Home Shortage Here

How to provide comfortable, well-built living quarters with modern conveniences at LOW RENTALS has been an acute unsolved problem in Torrance for many years.

There has never been sufficient desirable low-rent quarters for families with an income of \$100 or less per month. This is no criticism of private investors because it is a war and all of that to build new homes to rent for \$20 or less per month is not profitable.

The city houses or other living quarters large enough for families that are available at these low rentals are old structures, many of which are badly in need of repair and all of which lack many modern conveniences.

Torrance, being a comparatively new community, has no such old buildings and consequently those who were required by restricted incomes to seek such low-rent quarters have of nee-

Director Pledges Investigation of Pueblo Settlement Here

Continuing his efforts to "clean up" the Pueblo settlement here, Rev. Ben Lingenfelter wrote the Los Angeles County Housing Authority this week and yesterday received the following encouraging letter from the director of that organization:

"Replying to your letter of Dec. 12 regarding the sub-standard housing conditions in the Mexican settlement (Pueblo) in Torrance, I beg to advise that I will be greatly interested in investigating this matter as soon as possible—that is just as soon as I can get rid of some rush work with the United States Housing Authority, that will probably cover the balance of this year.

"If you happen to be in Los Angeles early in January, drop in to see us and perhaps after finding out from you more of the facts, I can plan to run down to Torrance in order to get first hand knowledge of the situation. (Signed) Melville Dozier, Jr."

Way is Clear Now

But what was impossible to attain through private capital has already been pointed out by the newly created Los Angeles County Housing Authority, which operates under the U. S. Housing Act or so-called Slum Clearance and Low-Rent Housing Program recently enacted by Congress.

The way for Torrance to solve its low-rent housing problem has already been pointed out by two nearby communities, who have secured the first definite allocation of funds under the newly created Housing Authority.

Two housing projects sponsored by the Housing Authority of Los Angeles county obtained the approval of President Roosevelt last week, assuring 500 family dwelling units at an estimated total cost of \$2,591,000. Upon completion these units will be occupied by low income families, the rental in no case to exceed one-fifth of the family income.

Loans Up to 90%

Project No. 1, will be located on adjoining Atlantic boulevard immediately north of the Union Pacific Railroad near North Long Beach, in county territory. Project No. 2, comprises another 250 dwelling units and will be located at the corner of Western avenue and Palos Verdes Drive.

The Housing Authority, after (Continued on Page 2-A)

WANTS STREET LIGHT A request of the city council by Rev. Father Joseph Fitzgerald, pastor of the Catholic church, for a street light to illuminate the steps leading to the new church at Englewood and Manuel was referred to the light committee Tuesday night for investigation and recommendation.